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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,617	06/30/2000	Scott D Smyers	SONY-12100	9459

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EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/608,617	SMYERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marc R Filipczyk	2171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). <u>8</u> |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to application filed on June 30, 2000 in which claims 1-43 were presented for examination. However, as a result of Examiner's request for Restriction, pre-amendment was faxed by the Applicant on March 18, 2003, canceling claims 16-18 and 36-43, hence claims 1-15 and 19-35 remain for continued prosecution.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-15 and 19-35 are drawn to writing data to a media storage, classified in class 707, subclass 102.
 - II. Claims 16-18 are drawn to recovering from an error condition, classified in class 707, subclass 202.
 - III. Claims 36-43 are drawn to network devices, classified in class 709, subclass 203.
2. Inventions I, II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

In the instant case invention I (writing data to a media) has separate utility such as storing data in computer applications. Invention II (recovering from error condition) has separate utility

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such as in recoverability applications. Finally, invention III (network devices) has separate utility such as with any other network systems.

3. Because these inventions are distinct and search Groups I, II and III are not required to be simultaneous, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Examiner has conducted a telephone interview with Jonathan O. Owens on 3/17/2003 wherein the Applicants elected Group I, claims 1-15 and 19-35 without traversal on 3/18/2003.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive and is too lengthy. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Having changed the scope of the invention due to election without traversal, the "field of the invention" should be modified.

Appropriate correction is required.

Information Disclosure Statement

The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. However, in order to initial the references cited the Examiner requests a list of all the submitted references on one document.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14, 15 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 14, 27 the terms “appropriate” and “legitimate” are indefinite and need to be removed or replaced with real values.

Regarding claim 15 and 28 depend from claims 14 and 27, therefore contain informalities and inconsistencies of those claims.

Regarding claim 26, the term “substantially” is indefinite and needs to be removed or replaced accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13, 19-26, 29-32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Traw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,117).

Regarding claims 1, 6 AAPA discloses a method of writing data to a media storage device comprising: (figure 2, items 28 and 30, AAPA)

a packet of data to be written to the media storage device; (fig. 4A, *Source Packets*)

adding a header to the received packet of data thereby forming an extended packet of data; (fig. 4A, items 68-71; *Headers Added*) and

storing the extended packet of data onto a media within the media storage device (fig. 2, items 24, 26, 28 and 30).

AAPA further discloses a bus interface circuit (fig. 2, block 22, AAPA) that formats data to IEEE requirements and sends data to other devices, but does not expressly teach receiving a packet of data.

However, Traw discloses a system/method for controlling arbitration for access to a serial bus (title, Traw) wherein packets of data are received (fig. 2, 206, Traw). Hence, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive

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pockets of data in the AAPA system via the bus interface circuit (fig. 2, block 22, AAPA) as done in Traw system to access and receive data from other devices and applications.

(Note: hardware media interface is equivalent to interface circuit)

Regarding claim 2, AAPA and Traw teach a cycle control along with packet transmitter and receiver (fig. 2, block 206, Traw). A cycle controller uses values to keep track of data.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, AAPA and Traw teach received packet of data is an isochronous packet of data received (fig. 4A, item 76, AAPA) over isochronous channels (fig. 2, *Isochronous Channels*).

Regarding claim 5, AAPA and Traw teach adding a header to the received packet of data is performed by an embedded stream processor within a storage device (col. 4, lines 63-66, Traw).

(Note: CPU with encoding/decoding functions is an embedded stream processor)

Regarding claim 7, hard disk is inherent from a storage device.

Regarding claims 8-13, 19-26, 29-32 and 35 contain the same subject matter as claims 1-7 and therefore are rejected on the same ground.

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Claims 14, 15, 27, 28, 33 and 34 are rejected as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Traw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,117) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kuver et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,604).

Regarding claims 14, 15, 27, 28, 33 and 34, AAPA and Traw disclose all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1 including a cycle control (fig. 2, block 206, Traw) but do not expressly teach a range. However, Kuver discloses a network data packet receiving and transmitting method where depending on the range a packet is accepted or rejected (fig. 4D, items S451, S455-S458, Kuver). Hence, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have utilized a range in the cycle control in AAPA and Traw system to restrict the quantity and flow of data as done by Kuver.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is 703-305-7156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

MF

March 25, 2003



SAFET METJAHIC
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100